

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00159 01 OF 02 141940Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 BIB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 /073 W
-----141958Z 046929 /43

O R 141808Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3819

AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 0159

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, UR

SUBJ: DEMARCHES TO SOVIETS - SEW PAPER ASSERTS VERORDNUNGSBLATT
DISCONTINUED

REFS: A) BONN 737; B) USBERLIN 131; C) BONN 569; D) USBERLIN 137

1. SUMMARY: WEST-BERLIN BASED PAPER PUBLISHED BY
SEW ASSERTED IN JANUARY 14 EDITION THAT GDR HAS
MADE DECISION TO DISCONTINUE PUBLICATION OF
VERODNUNGSBLATT FUER GROSS-BERLIN EFFECTIVE
BEGINNING OF YEAR BECAUSE EAST BERLIN IS INTEGRAL
PART OF GDR. PAPER CITES UNNAMED "OFFICIAL SOURCES"
AS SAYING THAT THERE IS SIMPLY NO LONGER NEED FOR
VERORDNUNGSBLATT SINCE EAST BERLIN IS INTEGRAL PART
OF GDR. CHAIRMAN ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMAN (BRITISH)
HAS ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING THAT ALLIED DO NOT
REGARD PIECE AS CONCLUSIVE BUT THAT WE "WOULD
VIEW ANY CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY."
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00159 01 OF 02 141940Z

TENTATIVE CONCLUSION OF ALLIED MISSIONS IS THAT GDR
HAS STOPPED ONE-HALF STEP SHORT OF COMMITTING ITSELF
SINCE STORY IS STILL ONLY IN WEST BERLIN, ALBEIT
A GDR-CONTROLLED, PAPER. MISSIONS THUS BELIEVE THAT
IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW UP PRESS STATEMENT WITH
EARLY DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS. BRITISH ARE RECOMMENDING THAT
AMBASSADOR WRIGHT BRING UP SUBJECT AT HIS LUNCH WITH ABRASIMOV

JANUARY 19, END SUMMARY.

2. STATEMENT ABOUT VERORDNUNGSBLATT IS CONTAINED IN MIDDLE OF "DIE WAHRHEIT" ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE INVENTED CRISIS" WHICH DISCUSSES RECENT GDR MEASURES INCLUDING IMPOSITION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR DAY VISITS TO EAST BERLIN BY NON-GERMANS AND HARASSMENT OF FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION. THEME OF ARTICLE IS THAT WEST HAS CHOSEN TO RESPOND TO PERFECTLY NORMAL ACTS OF SOVEREIGNTY BY CREATING FALSE ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS.

3. ARTICLE SAYS ABOUT VERORDNUNGSBLATT: BEGIN TEXT: FINALLY ONE PROCEEDED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR TO DISCONTINUE THE SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAWS AND ORDINANCE OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT IN THE VERORDNUNGSBLATT OF THE MAGISTRAT SINCE -- ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES -- THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NECESSITY FOR THIS. IN FACT SUCH A SPECIAL PUBLICATION IS WITHOUT PURPOSE. THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES PASSED BY THE VOLKSKAMMER AND THE GOVERNMENT APPLY WITHOUT THIS TO THE ENTIRE GDR, AND THE CAPITAL IS AN INTEGRAL PART. THIS STEP OF THE GDR WILL POSSIBLY ALSO PRODUCE A "STORM IN A WATER GLASS" AMONG THOSE WHO STILL HOLD TO A QUADRIpartite FICTION FOR "ALL OF BERLIN." BUT TO BE SERIOUS, NO ONE DOUBTS THAT THESE DECISIONS OF THE GDR ARE PROPER AND FALL WITHIN ITS SOVEREIGN COMPETENCE. IT IS NATURALLY NEVER EASY TO BURY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 00159 01 OF 02 141940Z

ILLUSIONS, AND SO SOME PEOPLE IN THE WEST CHERISH THE ILLUSION THAT, WITH THE HELP OF AN INVENTED "SPECIAL STATUS FOR EAST BERLIN" THEY CAN INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE GDR. THIS HAS BEEN DECISIVELY REJECTED BY THE GDR. ONE NOTES HERE THAT THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT A "SPECIAL STATUS" FOR THE CAPITAL IN THE GDR CONSTITUTION, AND THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT GOVERNS ONLY QUESTIONS THAT CONCERN WEST BERLIN. END TEXT.

4. CHAIRMAN ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMAN ISSUED JANUARY 14 FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES: BEGIN TEXT: THE ALLIES ARE INDEED AWARE THAT THE VERORDNUNGSBLATT HAS NOT APPEARED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1976. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN A PRESS REPORT THAT THE VERORDNUNGSBLATT HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED BUT WE WOULD NOT REGARD THE REPORT IN QUESTION AS CONCLUSIVE. IT IS THE CASE THAT IN THE PAST THE VERORDNUNGSBLATT DID NOT APPEAR FOR PERIOD. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ASSUME

THEREFORE THAT IT HAS NOW BEEN DISCONTINUED FINALLY.
HOWEVER, THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES WOULD VIEW ANY
CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY. END TEXT.

5. COMMENT: "DIE WAHRHEIT" IS OF COURSE FULLY
CONTROLLED BY GDR. IT IS NONETHELESS A WEST BERLIN
NEWSPAPER, AND WE REGARD IT AS ODD THAT GDR WOULD
MAKE A DEFINITIVE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCH A STEP IN
THIS SOURCE THOUGH IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT "DIE
WAHRHEIT" WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE GDR DID NOT WISH TO
PUBLICIZE TO ITS OWN CITIZENS FACT THAT DISTINCTIVE
PROCEDURE OF TAKING OVER LAWS HAD BEEN APPLYING ALL
THESE YEARS. INITIAL REACTION OF THREE MISSIONS
WAS THAT GDR HAD PERHPAS CHOSEN TO LEAVE ITSELF
A SMALL OUT. VIEW WAS THAT GDR HAS BEEN PROGRESSIVELY
TESTING ALLIED REACTION, FIRST BY SIMPLY NOT PUTTING
VERORDNUNGSBLATT OUT, THEY BY ADMITTING TO FRG REP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USBERL 00159 01 OF 02 141940Z

THAT IT WAS CONSIDERING DISCONTINUING PUBLICATION,
NOW, HAVING RECEIVED NO ALLIED RESPONSE, BY ATTRIBUTING
A DECISION TO "OFFICIAL SOURCES" BUT IN A WEST BERLIN
RATHER THAN EAST BERLIN PAPER.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00159 02 OF 02 141926Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 BIB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 /073 W
-----141958Z 046764 /43

O R 141808Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3820
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 0159

6. MISSIONS CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR ALLIES TO REACT QUICKLY IN ORDER BOTH TO REAFFIRM OUR POSITION ON STATUS OF BERLIN AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHATEVER CHANCE THERE MAY STILL BE THAT GDR WILL BACK DOWN. PRESS STATEMENT BY ITSELF CAN ONLY BE FIRST STEP. MISSIONS UNDERSTOOD BONN GROUP MEETING JANUARY 14 AND AGREED IT DESIRABLE THAT CHAIRMAN POLAD AUTHORIZED AT EARLIEST TIME TO RAISE MATTER WITH SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KHOTULEV. BASIC LINE MISSIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN WAS THAT "IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT THE VERORDNUNGSBLATT FUER GROSS BERLIN HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE SEPTEMBER. THIS RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE UEBERNAHME PROCEDURE IS CONTINUING TO APPLY IN EAST BERLIN AS IT HAS IN THE WESTERN SECTORS SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE BUNDESTAG. THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES WOULD VIEW ANY CHANGE IN THIS PROCEDURE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY. THEY WOULD LIKE AN ASSURANCE FROM THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES THAT THE UEBERNAHME PROCEDURE CONTINUES TO APPLY IN EAST BERLIN AND THAT THIS WILL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00159 02 OF 02 141926Z

BE REFLECTED IN THE CONTINUED PUBLICATION OF THE VERORDNUNGSBLATT FUER GROSS BERLIN." BRITISH MISSION IS ALSO RECOMMENDING THAT AMBASSADOR WRIGHT HIT ABRASIMOV ON THIS POINT DURING THEIR LUNCH JANUARY 19. BRITISH ARE FURTHER RECOMMENDING THAT IN LIGHT OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADOR WRIGHT ALSO CITE ADDITIONAL LIST OF GDR STEPS REFLECTING EFFORT TO CHANGE BERLIN STATUS REPORTED PARA 1(B) OF REF B.

7. MISSIONS HAVE ALSO REACHED AGREEMENT ON STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY CHAIRMAN POLAD TO KHOTULEV IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET COMPLAINT ON VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR EASTERN EUROPEANS IN WEST BERLIN. CHAIRMAN POLAD IS ALSO PREPARED TO PASS KHOTULEV COPY OF OUR JANUARY 11 PROTEST AND TO MAKE PROTEST ON RECENT GDR TRANSIT TRAFFICE INTERFERENCE WHEN AUTHORIZATION RECEIVED. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT PRIORITY MATTER IS TO GET TO SOVIETS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON VERODNUNGSBLATT MATTER, IF NECESSARY BEFORE OTHER THREE MATTERS ARE ALL READY. ACTION REQUESTED: AGREEMENT THAT CHAIRMAN POLAD CAN RAISE VERORDNUNGSBLATT ISSUE WITH SOVIETS ALONG LINES SUGGESTED PARA 5 ABOVE.

8. ABOVE DRAFTED BEFORE RECEIPT OF BONN 0802 INDICATING BONN GROUP AGREED AMBASSADOR WRIGHT SHOULD RAISE VERORDNUNGSBLATT ISSUE WITH ABRASIMOV JANUARY 19.

WHILE WE WELCOME THIS, FACT THAT GDR HAS GONE PUBLIC
WITH DIE WAHRHEIT PIECE SUGGESTS TO US THAT IT MIGHT
BE DESIRABLE TO GET IN EARLY AT POLAD LEVEL AND THEN
FOLLOW UP WITH AMBASSADOR WRIGHT. DIFFERENCE OF
A FEW DAYS MAY BE IMPORTANT SINCE DIE WAHRHEIT
PIECE FORCES US TO RESPOND, AND IF WE DO NO MORE
THAN MAKE PRESS STATEMENT FOR HALF A WEEK, GDR MAY
FOLLOW UP WITH MORE OFFICIAL STORY IN NEUES
DEUTSCHLAND BEFORE AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON.DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, LAW, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL00159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770015-0208
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770149/aaaabqss.tel
Line Count: 232
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 362371d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 737, 77 USBERLIN 131, 77 BONN 569, 77 USBERLIN 137
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3589613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMARCHES TO SOVIETS - SEW PAPER ASSERTS VERORDNUNGSBLATT DISCONTINUED
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GC, UR
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/362371d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009